

The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



July 26, 2020 Cycle A, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Volume V, Issue 35

Buried Treasures



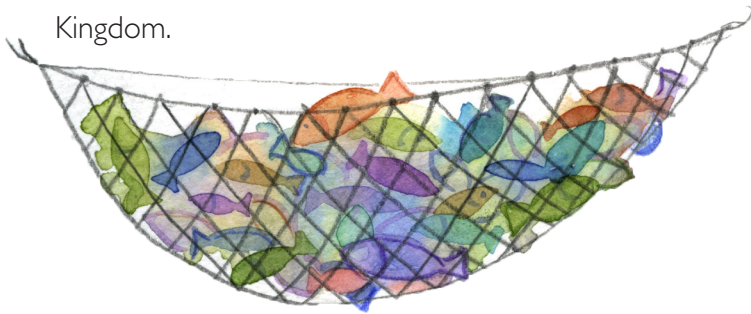
The seven Parables of the Kingdom found in Chapter 13 of Matthew's Gospel are as follows: 1. Parable of the Sower; 2. Parable of the Weeds Among the Wheat; 3. Parable of the Mustard Seed; 4. Parable of the Yeast; 5. Parable of the Hidden Treasure; 6. Parable of the Pearl of Great Price; and 7. Parable of the Catching and the Sorting of the Fish. In these parables, comparisons are made between life here on earth and life in the Kingdom.

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Psalms 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-28,

129-30 Romans 8:28-30

Matthew 13:44-52



These parables teach us important lessons: 1. There are dangers, like dragons, both within us and within others, that threaten to suffocate God's Word in us, but, 2. Walking with God, with hearts for Him, alone, we can slay these dragons and find the Kingdom that is beyond description and beyond imagining. This Kingdom calls to everyone with the eyes to see. When you close your eyes to picture the Kingdom, what do you see?



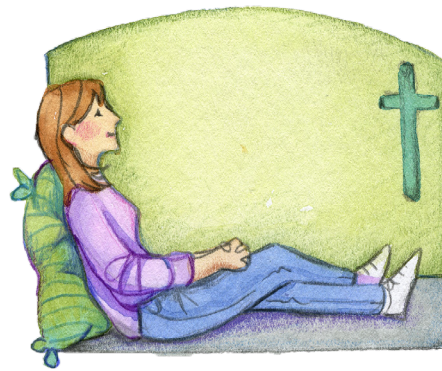
From Your Lips to God's Ear

Faith, then, is a trust so deep that we act. This trust begins to express itself when we say 'yes' to God and what He asks. What does God ask of us?



He may ask us to suffer an illness or to endure a humiliation. He may ask us to accept a loss or refuse a request. But whatever happens in each individual life, we will all be asked to forgive others and extend mercy. It is these 'little deaths' that teach our souls to swim the heavens in eternity.

How strong is your faith in God?



Catholic I.D.

Sin damages truth and threatens our union with God. This is why, "To the eyes of faith no evil is graver than sin and nothing has worse consequences for sinners themselves, for the Church, and for the whole world." (CCC 1488) So, we strive to do the right thing, trusting God that this is what our souls need to live in His Kingdom. Doing the right thing becomes a "spiritual worship," and our lives become a kind of prayer in action. (CCC 2047) This trains us for eternal happiness.

Our Salvation History: David & Goliath

David, anointed by Samuel, was a young soldier under Saul, who was still living out his time as king. One day, coming up against the Philistines on the battlefield, a man named Goliath stepped out from their ranks. He challenged the Israelites to choose one man to



fight him, and so, bring the war to an end. Goliath was a giant of a man, and everyone trembled at the sight of him.

David wondered who this man was to challenge them and their God. He told King Saul that he would fight Goliath, but Saul believed David was still too young and not strong enough to stand up to this huge warrior.

Saul gave David armor, but even it was too heavy for David. David persevered, believing God was on his side. He marched in to face the massive Goliath with

only his slingshot.

As he walked toward Goliath, he picked up five smooth stones from the ground. Goliath laughed at this boy who had no sword. David shouted to Goliath that he had the living God on his side, and this alone would make him triumphant. With a stone loaded in the sling, David spun it over his head and letting it fly, hit Goliath right between the eyes! Goliath fell dead with a mighty thud. The Philistines fled and David won the day. But this victory would prove to be a mixed blessing for David...



Tugboat Challenge

Faith is trust so deep that we are able to act in the face of fear, or sorrow, or whatever faces us. Name a time in your life where you were very afraid, but because you trusted someone, you were able to act and do the right thing.

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